XXII AICLU Seminar

 University of Siena, Italy

12-14 May 2016

 *Networking*: Language Centres and the challenge of creating networks

**Call for Papers**

The University of Siena Language Centre, in collaboration with the Italian Association of University Language Centres (AICLU), is pleased to announce that the XXII AICLU Seminar, will be held at the University of Siena, Italy, from 12 to 14 May 2016.

**Abstract Submission**

The details and themes for the seminar are described in detail on pages 2 to 3. If you would like to present a contribution for the parallel sessions, please submit an abstract (max. 300 words) in English or Italian. Preference will be given to the proposals that clearly reflect the themes of the seminar and integrate insights into the main target of the seminar: *networking*.

The language used in the abstract will be considered as the language for the presentation.

Please send your abstract to: [**aiclu.siena@unisi.it**](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CLINGUA~1%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CTemp%5Caiclu.siena%40unisi.it) by or before **14 February 2016**. Notification of abstract acceptance will be sent by 20 March 2016.

**Breakout Sessions**

The seminar includes breakout sessions dedicated to open discussion, based on topics that are not pre-arranged, but which will be chosen by participants, according to the *Open Space Technology* approach (see page 2).

Please feel free to propose a possible topic for discussion by sending a message to: aiclu.ost@unisi.it.

Further information will soon be available on [the seminar website](http://www.congressi.unisi.it/aiclu2016/).

With our warmest regards,

The University of Siena Language Centre

Seminar Overview

***Networking***

The central aim and intended outcome of the event is to encourage discussion and a deeper understanding of the opportunities that may result from creating networks and synergies among AICLU and CERCLES Language Centres.

However, the issue of networking is not exclusive: the presentations should focus on or include insights into the creation of synergies that may be possible and desirable, but the themes of the seminar are those listed below.

The creation of networks between Language Centres, has the dual functions of finding support in consulting with other Centres in order to discover solutions for common problems (similar to the Cercles focus groups), as well as promoting synergies that have broader objectives (for example, national language certification projects).

Is it possible to create methods by which the experience of other Centres could facilitate our work, therefore, eliminating the need to reinvent the wheel? For what needs would networking be most relevant? How could an eventual network be set up? What could make up the content, the actors (focus groups? experts in particular fields?) the nodes and the connections of the network? What role would AICLU and CERCLES play?

These are a few of the questions that could be raised for discussion in order to begin an exchange of ideas during the seminar in Siena, although a thorough answer will probably not be reached, but could be developed by the group in the future.

**Breakout Sessions and Open Space Technology**

In addition to the traditional plenary and parallel presentation sessions, the seminar includes time for free and collaborative discussion during scheduled breakout sessions. Based on the [Open Space Technology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open_Space_Technology) approach, these sessions should enable greater participation, offering a broader opportunity to contribute to the discussion. The topics and the composition of the groups for the breakout sessions will not be pre-arranged. Further details on the organisation of the breakout sessions will be announced later, however, any proposals for discussion topics can be sent to: aiclu.ost@unisi.it.

**Seminar Themes**

The main thread of the seminar, *networking among Language Centres*, will be articulated by considering the following areas, indicated by the organizing committee as the target of the Call for Papers:

1. **Language Centres and innovation in language teaching**

Experiences, projects and possibilities for synergy between Language Centres regarding: new ways of teaching and learning; integration of innovative tools in traditional teaching; self-study and self-assessment; online interaction; advantages and disadvantages of innovation; needs, obligations and opportunities offered or imposed by the university system; and meeting the needs of students with special needs, learning disabilities and dyslexia.

1. **Assessment and certification in Language Centres**

Experiences, projects and possibilities for synergy between Language Centres regarding: qualifying examinations (*idoneità*), certification exams, tests and other methods for certifying competences; procedures and policies for linguistic certification; European Language Centre certification projects and AICLUCERT; collaboration and networking between European and Italian Language Centres; localisation and standardisation of language testing; and evaluation and standardisation of courses for external organisations.

1. **Language Centres and the multilingual university**

Experiences, projects and possibilities for synergy between Language Centres regarding: Italian for incoming foreign students; degree programmes taught in English as a lingua franca: linguistic needs of university staff and students; and courses for outgoing Italian students.

1. **Networking: Language Centres, Europe and the workplace**

Experiences, projects and possibilities for synergy between Language Centres regarding: access to European projects and funds; courses for external organisations (public and private institutions); courses for administrative personnel; non-university/external students attending Language Centre courses; English for public school teachers; CLIL and Language Centres; Italian as a second language for migrants; and linguistic and intercultural mediation.

1. **Personnel selection and in-service training through Language Centres**

Experiences, projects and possibilities for synergy between Language Centres regarding: entrance requirements and in-service training for “Collaborators and Language Experts” - *Collaboratori ed Esperti Linguistici* (CEL) and language tutors; the role of personnel who are responsible for IT development; language laboratories and continuing education; and the role of administrative staff.